ecret Service Chief At White House Moved

By Lou Cannon 2/14/73

Washington Post Staff Writer

The chief of the White ouse Secret Service detail as been abruptly removed rom his job after an evaluaion by his superiors.

White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler confirmed that Robert H. Taylor, 46, has been transferred from he job he has held since [illegible] a published report that it was because of a dispute with presidential assistant H. R. Haldeman.

Taylor was assigned to the foreign dignitary protective division of the Secret Service.

Ziegler said he would call the reassignment a promotion, but Jack Warner, director of public affairs for the Secret Service, described it as "a lateral move."

Warner said the transfer was ordered by Secret Service Director James J. Rowley, who was head of the White House detail from 1947 until 1961.

Ziegler said that the reassignment came after an evaluation of the Secret Service detail and would not have occurred without the approval of the President.

But the White House press secretary heatedly denied suggestions that a "rift" between Haldeman and Taylor led to the reassignment.

"There is no rift," Ziegler said. "There was no firing."

A United Press International story said that the purported friction between Haldeman and Taylor had been growing since the election and "came to a head at the time of the state funeral for President Lyndon B. Johnson."

Other Secret Service sources said that Haldeman and Taylor disagreed on "technical matters" about how protection should be provided for Mr. Nixon at the Johnson funeral.

There also were reports that a further shakeup is impending within the Secret Service possibly including the retirement of Rowley.

"I know of no indication that that is in mind," Warner said.

Taylor was replaced as of Feb. 9 by Richard [illegible] Kiser, 38, who was given the title of "acting special agent." The White House, which customarily announces much more minor job changes, made no announcement that Taylor had been replaced.

Asked whether Taylor had been reassigned because of a dispute with Haldeman, Warner replied:

"We wouldn't address ourselves to that inference."

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